

App. No. 10/090,911
Atty. Docket No. 8449M
Amdt. dated September 20, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 22, 2005
Customer No. 27752

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-23 (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) A method of softening a fabric in a [[manual]] rinse process comprising the steps:

(a) adding [[incorporating]] a fabric conditioning composition to a first rinse bath solution in an aqueous bath in a first rinse step;

(b) rinse the fabric in the first rinse bath solution; ~~immersing the fabric in the aqueous bath subsequent to contact with a detergent liquor;~~

wherein the fabric conditioning composition comprises:

- a fabric softener active;
- a suds suppressing system; and
- a surfactant scavenger;

~~wherein the fabric softening active and the surfactant scavenger are prepared together from the same starting materials;~~

wherein said fabric softening active comprises a dialkyl substituted quaternary ammonium compound;

wherein the surfactant scavenger comprises a monoalkyl variant of the fabric softening active;

~~wherein the fabric softening active is a reaction product of a fatty acid and an amine;~~

~~wherein the mole ratio of the fatty acid to the amine is less than about 2 parts fatty acid to 1 part amine; and~~

~~wherein the suds suppression system comprises a silicone antifoam.~~

Claims 25 - 29 (Canceled).

30 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 24, wherein the composition exhibits a suds reduction of at least about 90% under the Suds Reduction Test.

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31 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the composition exhibits the essential absence of floc formation in a rinse solution under the Floc Formation Test Method.

32 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the suds suppression system comprises a silicone antifoam, wherein the silicone antifoam comprises a polyorganosiloxane oil; polydimethyl-siloxane, polyorganosiloxane resin, or polyorganosiloxane with silica particle.

33 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, [[32,]] wherein the suds suppression system comprises a silicone antifoam, wherein the silicone antifoam comprises from about 0.01% to about 5% by weight of the composition; and wherein the rinse process is a single rinse step.

34. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 33, wherein the fabric softening active comprises from about 1% to about 25% by weight of the composition; and wherein the mole ratio of the fatty acid to amine is from about 2:1 to about 1:1, respectively.

35. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 34, wherein the fabric softening active comprises from about 2% to about 8% by weight of the composition; and wherein the mole ratio of the fatty acid to amine is from about 1.6:1 to about 1:1, respectively.

36. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 34, wherein the fabric softening active is chosen from a compound having at least one of the following formulas:



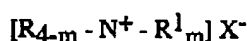
wherein:

- (a) each R substituent is hydrogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group, C₂-3 alkoxy, benzyl, or a mixture thereof;
- (b) each m is 2 or 3;
- (c) each n is from 1 to about 4;
- (d) each Y is -O-(O)C-, -C(O)-O-, -NR-C(O)-, or -C(O)-NR-;
- (e) each R¹ being a hydrocarbyl, or substituted hydrocarbyl group, wherein the sum of carbons in each R¹, plus one when Y is -O-(O)C- or -NR-C(O)-, is C₁₂-C₂₂;
- (f) X⁻ is a softener-compatible anion, preferably, chloride, bromide, methylsulfate, ethylsulfate, sulfate, and nitrate, more preferably chloride or methyl sulfate;

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wherein:

- (g) each R substituent is hydrogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group, C₂₋₃ alkoxy, benzyl, or a mixture thereof;
- (h) each m is 2 or 3;
- (i) each R¹ is a hydrocarbyl, or substituted hydrocarbyl group.

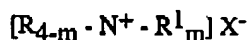
37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the fabric softening active is a compound having the formula:



wherein:

- (a) each R substituent is a methyl, hydroxyethyl, or a mixture thereof;
- (b) each m is 2 or 3;
- (c) each n is from 1 to about 4;
- (d) each Y is -O-(O)C-;
- (e) each R¹ is a hydrocarbyl, or substituted hydrocarbyl group, wherein the sum of carbons in each R¹, plus one when Y is -O-(O)C-, is C₁₂-C₂₂;
- (f) X⁻ is a chloride or methyl sulfate.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 36, wherein the fabric softening active is a compound having the formula:



wherein:

- (g) each R substituent is a methyl;
- (h) each m is 2;
- (i) each R¹ is a C₁₁-C₂₁ hydrocarbyl, or substituted hydrocarbyl group.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the silicone antifoam is from about 0.01% to about 10% by weight of the composition.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the silicone antifoam is from about is from about 0.01% to about 10% by weight of the composition.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the silicone antifoam is from about is from about 0.01% to about 2% by weight of the composition.

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42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the silicone antifoam is from about 0.01% to about 2% by weight of the composition.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the silicone antifoam comprises a polyorganosiloxane oil; polydimethyl-siloxane, polyorganosiloxane resin, or polyorganosiloxane with silica particles.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the silicone antifoam compound comprises a polyorganosiloxane oil; polydimethyl-siloxane, polyorganosiloxane resin, or polyorganosiloxane with silica particles.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the silicone antifoam compound comprises polydimethyl-siloxane or polyorganosiloxane oil.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the silicone antifoam compound comprises polydimethyl-siloxane or polyorganosiloxane oil.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the composition exhibits a suds reduction of at least about 90% under the Suds Reduction Test.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the composition exhibits a suds reduction of at least about 90% under the Suds Reduction Test.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the composition exhibits the essential absence of floc formation in a rinse solution under the Floc Formation Test Method.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the composition exhibits the essential absence of floc formation in a rinse solution under the Floc Formation Test Method.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the rinse process is a single rinse step.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the rinse process is a single rinse step.

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53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the composition further comprises a liquid carrier, wherein the liquid carrier comprises at least 60% by weight of the composition of water.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the composition further comprises a liquid carrier, wherein the liquid carrier comprises at least 60% by weight of the composition of water.

55. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 53, wherein the mole ratio of the fatty acid to amine is from about 1.6:1 to about 1:1, respectively; and wherein the first rinse bath solution is a single rinse bath solution.

56. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein the mole ratio of the fatty acid to amine is from about 1.6:1 to about 1:1, respectively; and wherein the first rinse bath solution is a single rinse bath solution.

57. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing the volume of water consumed in a manual rinse process comprising the steps:

(a) adding a fabric conditioning composition to a single rinse bath solution
~~incorporating a fabric conditioning composition in an aqueous bath in a first rinse~~
~~—step;~~

(b) rinsing the fabric in the single rinse bath solution ~~immersing the fabric in the~~
~~aqueous bath subsequent to contact with a detergent liquor;~~

wherein the fabric conditioning composition comprises:

- a fabric softener active;
- a suds suppressing system; and
- a surfactant scavenger;

~~wherein the fabric softening active and the surfactant scavenger are prepared together from~~
~~the same starting materials;~~

wherein said fabric softening active comprises a dialkyl substituted quaternary ammonium compound, [[:]]

~~wherein the surfactant scavenger comprises a monoalkyl variant of the fabric softening~~
~~active;~~

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~~wherein the fabric softening active is a reaction product of a fatty acid and an amine;~~

~~wherein the mole ratio of the fatty acid to the amine is less than about 2 parts fatty acid to 1~~
~~part amine; and~~

~~wherein the rinse process is a single rinse step.~~